

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended) In an apparatus for treating cytological or histological specimens of a type having a plurality of conventional processing stations and a transport device for delivering said specimens into and out of said plurality of processing stations, the improvement comprising:  
at least one running-water station having an inflow and an outflow is provided as a processing station, wherein said running water station comprises a pan and a plurality of containers inserted into said pan, each of said plurality of containers including a connector fitting on a bottom wall thereof for coupling said container to a water supply system, and said pan including a connector rail having a plurality of connector openings spaced therealong for respectively receiving said connector fittings of said plurality of containers.
2. (original) The improvement as defined in Claim 1, wherein said inflow is a regulated inflow.
3. (canceled)
4. (currently amended) The improvement as defined in ~~Claim 3~~ Claim 1, wherein said ~~container~~ plurality of containers of said running-water station is are embodied similarly to containers of said plurality of processing stations.
5. (currently amended) The improvement as defined in ~~Claim 3~~ Claim 1, further comprising feet for supporting said pan.
6. (currently amended) The improvement as defined in ~~Claim 3~~ Claim 1, wherein said pan has a holding device for the insertion of several containers.
7. (currently amended) The improvement as defined in Claim 6, wherein said holding device comprises a pair of spaced bars between which said plurality of containers can be supported in a row.
8. (currently amended) The improvement as defined in Claim 6, wherein each of said plurality of containers is connected to a the water supply system and has an overflow.
9. (currently amended) The improvement as defined in Claim 8, wherein said overflow from each ~~individual container~~ of said plurality of containers communicates ~~in collected fashion~~ with said pan.
10. (canceled)

11. (canceled)
12. (currently amended) The improvement as defined in ~~Claim 11~~ Claim 8, wherein a plurality of connector rails are provided in said pan.
13. (canceled)
14. (currently amended) The improvement as defined in ~~Claim 13~~ Claim 1, wherein said connector openings of said connector rail are supplied with water by way of a plurality of respective valves.
15. (original) The improvement as defined in Claim 14, wherein said plurality of valves are solenoid valves.
16. (currently amended) The improvement as defined in Claim 14, wherein said plurality of valves are 3/2-way valves for enabling both filling and emptying of said plurality of containers by way of said plurality of valves.
17. (original) The improvement as defined in Claim 14, wherein one of said plurality of valves has an inflow separate from an inflow leading to others of said plurality of valves.
18. (original) The improvement as defined in Claim 14, wherein more than one of said plurality of valves share a common inflow and a common outflow.
19. (original) The improvement as defined in Claim 14, further comprising a valve rail into which said plurality of valves are combined.
20. (currently amended) The improvement as defined in Claim 14, further comprising a plurality of fluid lines for connecting said plurality of valves to respective ~~the~~ connector openings for flow communication.
21. (original) The improvement as defined in Claim 20, wherein said fluid lines are arranged to run below said pan.
22. (currently amended) The improvement as defined in ~~Claim 3~~ Claim 1, wherein said pan includes an outflow connected to an outlet line.
23. (currently amended) The improvement as defined in Claim 14, further comprising a sensor arranged to detect ~~the~~ a fill level in the pan ~~is provided in the pan~~.
24. (original) The improvement as defined in Claim 23, wherein said sensor is connected to said plurality of valves, whereupon detection of a defined fill level said plurality of valves are actuated so that water infeed is shut off.

25. (currently amended) A processing station for use in an automatic ~~satiner~~ stainer for treating objects, in particular cytological or histological specimens, comprising:  
a running-water station having at least one inflow and an outflow, wherein said inflow is automatically regulated.
26. (canceled)